

REMARKS

The rejections of various claims other than Claim 11 over prior art and under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting are respectfully traversed. All of the presently-pending claims contain the limitations of Claim 11, not subject to these rejections. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that they be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is now moot in view of the cancellation of said claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

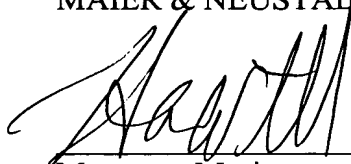
Applicants respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed February 3, 2004. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the Form PTO 1449 submitted therewith, and include a copy thereof with the next Office communication.

Moreover, since the date of the IDS is before the date of the Office Action and thus technically was part of the Official file as of the Office Action date, Applicants respectfully request that should the Examiner determine that a new ground of rejection needs to be made in the next Office Action relying in whole or in part on any of the references cited in the IDS, then said next Office Action not be made Final, even if the new rejection was necessitated by the present amendment to the claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of, *inter alia*, Claim 11. All of the present claims contain the limitations of Claim 11. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masayasu Mori', is written over a horizontal line.

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